DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELA): (a) to (d) The modalities of extending the coverage of human rights in the cirriculum for school and higher education have recently been discussed with the National Human Right Commission (NHRC) and it was felt that the NCERT and UGC should work on the development of material for the curricula for school and higher education respectively. The NCERT and the UGC have been addressed accordingly.

The NCERT which is responsible for framing the national pattern of school curriculum, has not developed any separate material on "Consumer Rights and Education". However, some ideas having linkage to consumer rights have already been included in the social sciences textbooks of the NCERT. In so far as higher education is concerned, it has been proposed by the UGC committee on 'Curriculum Development in Law' to include an optional paper on consumer justice in the revised law curriculum. The report has been circulated in the university system for consideration by individual universities in consultation with their board of studies, academic council etc. The responsibility of designing curriculum for higher education sector solely rests with the Universities.

Shortage of funds for Science Departments of Universities

6092. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Science Department of most of the Universities in the country are short of funds which is adversely affecting the Science education in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Programme to curb infanticide in Tamil Nadu

6093. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDEY; Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme that was brought by the Tamil Nadu Government to curb infanticide failed to take off and there are large-scale female infanticides taking place in the southern part of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking, considering it as a serious social and human problem, being faced by the people of Tamil Nadu ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SMT. BASAVA RAJESHWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The data made available by the State Government of Tamil Nadu indicates that there is a significant decrease in the incidence of female infanticide in some areas of Madurai district in the southern part of Tamil Nadu. Various programmes of action and advocacy are being implemented by the Government in the country for the welfare and development of woman and girl childre. Further, advocacy attempts are also being made to project positive images of girl children so as to bring about changes in social attitudes towards them. The Government has also initiated a media campaign to generate awareness in various issues relating to girl children. A National Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade (1991-2000AD) of the

Girl Child Focussing on survival, protection and development of the girl child has been formulated. A special set of interventions for adolescent girls has been sanctioned through the ICDS infrastructure in 507 blocks of the country, including Vadamadurai block in Madurai district. Government has initiated a nation-wide survey including Tamil Nadu, of the problem of female infanticide with a view to identify the vulnerable areas, pin-point underlying factors and devise suitable interventions to eliminate this invidious practice. The State Government of Tamil Nadu has launched a specific scheme called the Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. Jayalalitha Scheme for the girl child as a specific measure to prevent female infanticide. The scheme extends financial assistance to girl children of poor families and simultaneously attempts to convince people to adopt small family norm. The State Government of Tamil has organised cradles in vulnerable areas to receive abandoned babies who can then be nurtured and cared for by reputed voluntary organisations.

Affiliation of private professional institutions to Central Universities

6094. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UGC has decided to get private non-aided professional institutions conducting professional courses in the country affiliated to one of the Central Universities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have given its approval to the proposal of UGC, if not the reasons therefor;

(d) whether similar action will be taken at the State level also; and

(e) what sort of control Government will have on such institution ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) According to the information furnished by UGC, no such decision has been taken by the Commission in this regard.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Vocationalisation of Schools in Punjab

6095. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is giving greater emphasis on vocationalisation of schools and higher education in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at plus 2 level, has been started in all States|UTs except UT of Lakshadweep.

University Grants Commission is introducing a Scheme to start some vocational courses at first Degree level in certain Universities and colleges from the academic year 1994-95.

Technical posts in Bureau for promotion of Urdu

6096. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many Technical Posts are lying vacant in the Bureau for Promotion of Urdu;